

THE OUTBREAK IN PAKANG.

TWO EUROPEANS KILLED.
THREATENED ATTACK ON PEKAN.
EUROPEANS TAKING REFUGE AT THE KUALA.
H. M. S. "RATTLER" GOING UP.

At 2 a.m. on the 8th Inst. the Straits Acting Governor (the Hon. W. E. Maxwell, C.M.G.) received letters from Mr. Belfield at Pekan stating that the situation in Pakang had become suddenly much more acute. The Panglima Muda Jempol, who had already threatened to make a raid upon Pekan, had caused the murder of two Europeans, employees of the Pahang Exploration and Development Company, named George Harris and L. C. Stewart. The scene of these murders was on the river, some forty miles above Pekan, that is in a valley about midway between Pekan and Kuala Semantan. There the Sungai Duri debouches into the Pahang River on the right bank of the main stream.

Harris and Stewart were employed by the Exploration Company in cutting timber, to be dragged to the stream and floated down to the mills at the Kuala. Two unfortunate men must have been within a mile or two of each other at the time of their deaths and not far from Mr. F. O'Brien Smith, the General Assistant of the Company, who was up there at the time taking photographs, and who, though not near enough to see the murder, got warning and came down the river in a boat, the launch not having steam up, in time to save his life.

THE STORM WAS BURST DOWN.
And all the material thereon. All the property of the Company there has been destroyed, and two elephants and six buffaloes carried off, with all the cash and stores. The receipt of this news at Pekan, as may easily be imagined, caused an intense panic, both among the Europeans and amongst the Natives. An attack was expected on Pekan on the night of the 6th, and even at the Kuala, the mills down, the whole of the Malay State deserted, leaving only Europeans, who were naturally in a state of great trepidation, heightened by their entire ignorance of what was going on up the river.

Mr. Belfield is at Pekan with a force of 25 Sikhs, some Malays, though not many, as most of the Police are on country, and many have left of late, their time having expired. There are also the European inhabitants, who have some rifles, their revolvers, and shot-guns. These should be able to hold the Gaoi at Pekan if the threatened attack is made. The Gaoi is a wooden building of moderate strength, with a stockade round it which has been strengthened and filled with kampong oil-cans filled with sand. It is not far from the river, and only a few wooden houses are near, and if these were demolished or burnt the space around is open and could be swept with musketry fire.

An accurate picture of the situation at Pekan may be obtained from the following letter, which is the last written communication from that place—

"Kuala Pahang, 6 April, 1892.
"Since writing you, my dear friend, we have reached us. Messrs. Harris and Stewart, two of the Development Company's forest rangers, have been killed the former at Kuala Kinoh at 9 a.m. yesterday and the latter at Sungai Duri at 2 p.m. on the same day. I have seen Stewart's body, who saw his master killed by the Panglima Muda and his men. He escaped and brought the news, arriving here at 5 a.m.

The Panglima intends attacking Pekan to-night, so you may imagine how everyone feels at this moment.

I am waiting here for the *Glanget*, which should arrive at noon to-day, when all the ladies will go on board. If Harris had not left Pekan we had better have him to travel via Raub. This raid is said to be under imperative orders of the Sultan to clear out (kill) every European in the country.

I do hope my letters by *Ang Hea* will have arrived and others from the Government, so that a gunboat may be on its way up, for until white troops now walk through the State there will be no protection for those who may happen to escape this new rebel's vengeance. All the friendly natives here ask for the protection of a gunboat. If we had even arms and ammunition these might partially assist us; to be left in this unprotected state is too cruel. Better impress upon the Government there is not a moment to lose if they should send assistance at once.

P.S. Why not borrow the Sultan's gunboat which can go right up to Pekan?

The despatches were brought down by Mr. Jones, of the Pahang Exploration and Development Co. in the *Lady Wain*, which arrived here about one o'clock having on board Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. Smith. The *Glanget* had arrived at the Kuala when the *Lady Wain* left, and the ladies, Mrs. and Miss Rodger, and their maid, Mrs. Kinsey, and Mrs. Spanglard, were on board her, it being intended, should it be found impossible to protect them on land, to steam out to sea. In that situation they may be deemed safe.

The situation at the Pekan was critical. The men there, with the Sikhs, will, it is believed, be able to hold the Gaoi against any but a very large force. Given, however, some too plentiful, nor arms and ammunition, and great doubts as to the loyalty of the Malay allies there. The Chief of them is the Datoh Bander of Berber—a river district further down the coast. The doubts are increased by the rumour that the Sultan is at the bottom of all the trouble; that had he chosen the disaffection could have been stopped long ago.

THE MURDERS.

All particulars of the murders of Messrs. Harris and Stewart come from the Japanese boy Man, Stewart's servant. The account he gives is that his master was at Kampong Fagar, and hearing some disturbance, went out and enquired what was the matter. He then received a shot in the breast, the projectile being a nail. One of the Malays asked "Him apa sakit?" (what is he sick?) and Stewart replied "Orang Pukul" (white man) and several others were fired into him. A young Malay woman tried to intervene and save the poor fellow; she was cut down and Stewart's head was then cut off with a kris and his body hacked to pieces. The servant Man was stripped naked and tied to a tree, but he begged hard for his life. When the assailants, about whose number no information was afforded, had gone, Man got loose and went down to the river, hoping to catch the launch. Fires were not up, however, and he and Mr. O'Brien Smith, who had been warned, came down river in a boat. "The launch seems to have been overlooked by the rebels," for it afterwards got safely down the river. About

THE DEATH OF HARRIS.
Little information was afforded. He appears to have been shot dead, his throat being afterwards cut with a kris. Under him were working Chinese Javanese, and it is said these were taken up to the main stream. "Harris" was killed at Sungai Duri, where he appears to have been at work. Evidently both men were taken by surprise.

The men were employed, as we have said, by the Company to superintend the cutting of timber, to be floated down to the mills. They both

had good characters, and as far as can be judged, had given rise to no dislike among the natives. Harris, we hear, had a wife and children in Selangor; Stewart was a single man hailing from Australia, where his mother now lives. Mr. F. O'Brien Smith, who so narrowly escaped with his life, is one of the oldest servants of the Company.

There seems a little discrepancy in the accounts as to the time of day these occurrences took place. Our correspondent says a 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., but we are told by Mr. Jones that it was 3.30 p.m. and 4 p.m., Harris meeting his fate first. If the same party of rebels committed both murders, the question of time will depend upon how far apart the men were, and if the main body of the Panglima Muda's men was engaged, it is pretty certain they would not arrive at the Pekan for forty-eight hours or thereabouts.

What connection there is between the ex-Orang Kaya, and the Panglima Muda's men, is not very evident. It is apparently seen, if they are unconnected with one another, then the view that the Sultan is at the root of all the mischief is strengthened. Or it may be, seeing the success that has attended Sir Rahman, in that he has escaped capture and caused a mob of trouble, the Panglima Muda feels emboldened to try his hand. It is reported that he sent a letter to a headman in Berber, ordering him to join him in Jempol, where he intends to be chief of the village. The recipient could not read the letter to be got an interpreter, and it was read to him in the presence of four or five witnesses. This was on the 4th.

There are also rumours—which seem to have some foundation—that the continued disturbances may result in civil war in the State. The Datoh of Jellei considers himself the heir to the throne, and may or may not be loyal to the Sultan. Which ever view he takes of the Sultan's policy, he would naturally be against the Government. If the Sultan is loyal, his future inheritance will be lessened. If the Sultan does not back up the Government he certainly will not.

The Panglima of Jempol has been known to be disaffected for some time. He stopped some men on the Separ and told them they could go there no more, he was going to be Panglima of that district. This information was given to Mr. Rodger, but he merely asked to be informed if anything else was heard. It is this man who has committed the murders. Had he been there and there arrested the present trouble would never have occurred.

The two ladies, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Bowman, who arrived early this morning in the *Lady Wain* are very much exhausted after their long trip of 30 hours, which was made under conditions of great difficulty, and practically without provisions, their departure being, under the circumstances, somewhat precipitate. Feeling runs very high in Pekan, and great indignation is expressed at the way in which the whole matter has been dealt with by the Government.

Nothing has been heard of the movements of Mr. Clifford and Mr. Wise since the 21st, and nothing of those of Mr. Rodger since his last letters of the 27th inst. It is rumoured among the natives in Pekan that the Resident is detained up-river and is practically a prisoner. This, however, is not probable, for though he went up with only a few men, all his force is inland and he would pick them up there.

The following is a list as far as is known of the Europeans on the River Pahang—Mr. J. R. Rodger (Resident) Mr. F. Belfield, Mr. Deburgh, Mr. W. P. Townsend, Mr. R. W. Smith, P.W.D., Mr. W. F. Townley, Dr. Bowman, Inspector of Police T. C. Fleming, Mr. E. A. Wise, Mr. Hugh Clifford, Mr. W. Hole, Mr. W. Klusey, Mr. J. Spanglard, Mr. F. O'Brien Smith.

H. M. S. *Hyacinth*, is expected to-morrow at Singapore from her cruise to Penang. The Senior Naval Officer's instructions are stated to have been that the *Rattler* would remain at Singapore until his return, but in a case of urgency such as the present situation appears to be, the Government would be entitled to call for the services of the gunboat—that at present in port.

Mr. Maxwell upon receipt of Mr. Belfield's letter from Pakang put himself into communication with H. E. the Governor who must be in or near Penang at present. As no reply had been received up till 3 p.m. to-day, it is just possible the Governor may be in some part of Province Wellesley where it would require a messenger to reach him from the nearest telegraph station. But the delay cannot be long and probably before this paper is published the Governor's orders may have arrived.

A correspondent who has just arrived from Pekan writes us as follows:—

It is an awful shame of the Government to leave us unprotected at Pekan, with only 18 Sikhs and a few Malays. Mr. Rodger had warning of these new troubles when going up river, but evidently took no notice of it as usual, with the result: these two men, Harris and Stewart, who were up about a day's journey up stream have been the first to be killed. And this new Rajah, not the Orang Kaya, said "he was going on to Pekan" and the Kuala, next day (Wednesday). Tuesday night all the Europeans spent in the Gaoi, which following into a stockade, but on Wednesday they came on to the Kuala and on Wednesday night all Mr. and Mrs. Rodger included, were to go on board the *Glanget* and lie outside the Kuala till help arrived from Singapore, or in case of attack, a rough stockade being made round the Indian Immigration Depot, where as many as could were to take refuge. 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